

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive. I am not currently able to receive High Definition TV (HDTV), since I am not close enough to receive terrestrial signals (100 miles), and my cable company (Cox) does not now offer HDTV, and does not answer my questions on when HDTV might be available. Since I cannot receive HDTV, I am not purchasing HDTV sets, and the transition to HDTV is again delayed, which I understand to be against FCC wishes. I would be a satellite subscriber if I could receive HDTV, which seems to only be available if the merger is approved.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Howard Robishaw
35 Warwick Dr.
Shalimar, FL 32579